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March 24, 2008

Richard Keller
Senior Officer for Scientific & Medical Research Facilities
California Institute for Regenerative Medicine
210 King Street
San Francisco, CA 94107

Re: CIRM Staff Analysis of Major Facilities Application
CIRM RFA 07-03: Application # FA1- 00614-1 (CIRM Special Programs)

Dear Mr. Keller,

This letter is a response from UC Merced in regard to your communication dated March 20, 2008. UC Merced confirms that the information provided in the CIRM Major Facility Grant Part 2 application Staff Analysis is correct. Additionally, UC Merced is providing the following clarification as requested.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES FOR FACILITIES WORKING GROUP EVALUATION

- **Functionality:** How will the FWG weigh the significance of facilities that provide statewide core facilities?

The scientific program, mission and proposed facilities of UC Merced's unique Stem Cell Instrumentation Foundry (SCIF) are designed to support the UC Merced stem cell program, as well as to enable stem cell biologists at other institutions state-wide to utilize state-of-the-art novel technologies to probe behavior at the single cell level. Understanding the basis for stem cell fate decisions and manipulating and directing these decisions are at the crux of stem cell biology research. The SCIF will enable stem cell biologists state-wide to design and use innovative micro-devices and technologies to address critical questions about stem cell fate decisions at the level of individual cells. The SCIF will be able to host multiple users with access to the facility for nano/micro fabrication, cell culture, microenvironment manipulation, data collection, and analysis. Users can learn how to leverage state-of-the-art technologies to address their own stem cell research and even to design their own custom chips. By lowering the activation energy to adopt such tools, the SCIF will disseminate more widely such enabling technologies to stem cell researchers in California. This facility will also serve as an anchor to eventually build much-needed biotechnology and high-technology industries in the San Joaquin Valley, one of the fastest growing regions in the state.

UC Merced's central location is a significant advantage in promoting cross-institutional collaborations throughout California. UC Merced's relationships with other universities and institutions in California include academic partnerships with UC San Francisco, UC Davis, and UC Berkeley. Finally, this cutting edge facility will attract critical collaborators for UC Merced's group of innovative and growing stem cell researchers. It will bring stem cell researchers to the UC Merced campus, leveraging and distributing California's investment in stem cell programs across the State of California.

The benefits of the state-wide core facilities that UC Merced's proposed SCIF will provide can be measured by tracking both short and long-term outcomes. These could potentially include:

- The number of non-UC Merced Principal Investigators (PIs) who design and/or purchase lab-on-a-chip (LOC) technologies from the SCIF, as well as the institutions at which the PIs are based;
- The number of researchers/scientists who participate in online and on-site trainings for utilizing new technologies;
- The number of research papers published based on research involving technology designed/purchased from the SCIF; and
- The number of formal collaborations that result from SCIF activities.

Sincerely,

John O. White

John O. White
Director – Capital Planning and Space Management
Division of Administration
University of California, Merced

Cc: Keith E. Alley, EVC/Provost
Maria Pallavicini, Dean – School of Natural Sciences
Samuel Traina, Vice Chancellor – Research